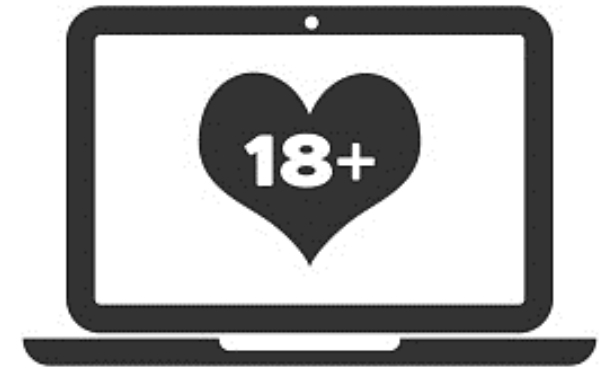
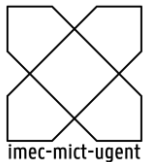


The relationship between pornography consumption and victimization and perpetration experiences of online and offline partner violence

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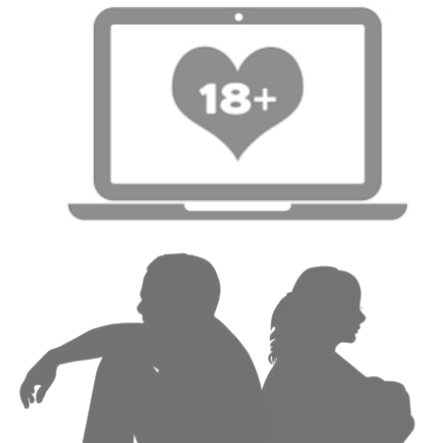
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Background

Field of research focuses on effects of pornography consumption on people's (violent) behaviors

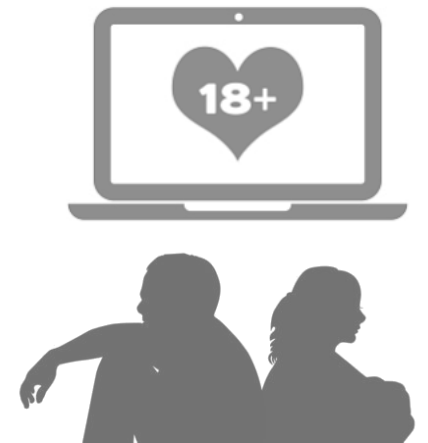
- Specific focus on its relation to **intimate partner violence (IPV)**



Pornography & IPV

Previous research finds mixed results:

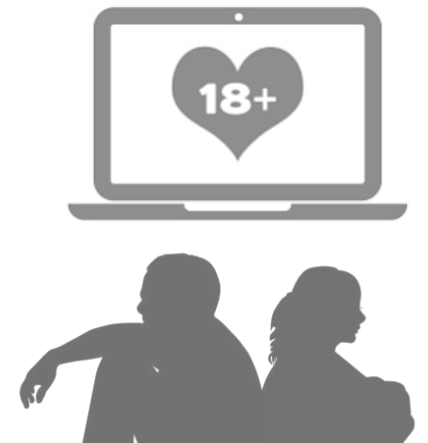
- Most (published) studies indicate that exposure to pornography is related to **perpetration** of partner violence;
- Some other studies do not find this effect or found the inverse to be true;
- Research on **victimization** is limited



Pornography & IPV

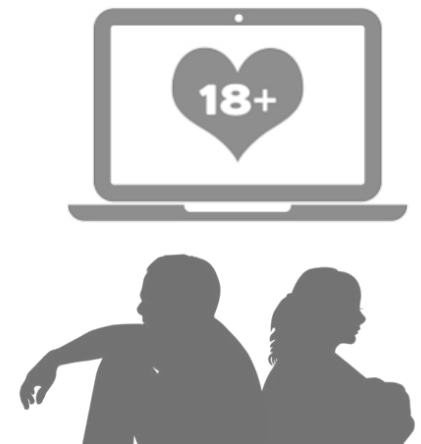
Study limitations and knowledge gaps:

- Focus on perpetration, **victimization** is rarely studied;
- **Gendered**, leaving out male victimization and female perpetration experiences;
- Focus on sexual/physical partner violence, **neglecting** psychological and cyber partner violence;
- **Representative** samples are rare



Present study

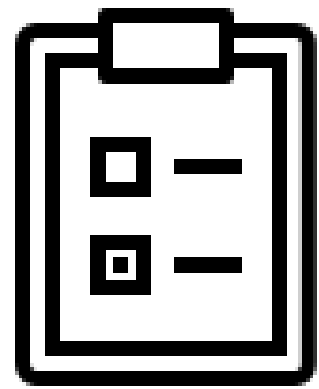
Aims to address these limitations and knowledge gaps by examining the relationship between pornography consumption and *victimization* and *perpetration* of *physical*, *sexual*, *psychological*, and *cyber* partner violence



Method

Large-scale survey study among **citizens of Ghent**

- Face-to-face interviews and a 'closed' part of the survey
- Sample **representative** for sex, age and nationality



Survey study
 $n = 1587$



51.4% female
 $n = 815$

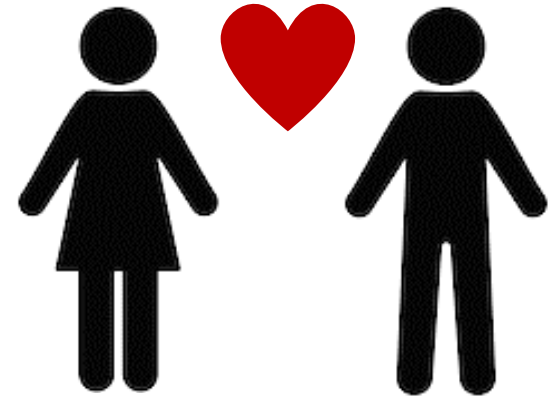


48.6% male
 $n = 772$

Average age = 48.1 years



In a relationship ($n = 1144$)



51.3% female
 $n = 587$

48.7% male
 $n = 557$

Average age = 47.7 years

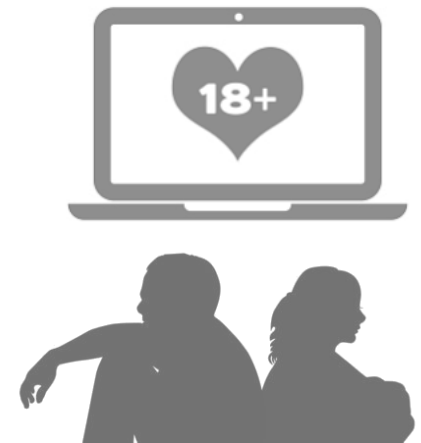
Method

Survey measures:

- Pornography consumption – single item, answers ranging from ‘never’ to ‘more than once a day’
- Physical partner violence – single item
- Sexual partner violence – single item
- Psychological partner violence – 7 items Multidimensional Measure of Emotional Abuse (MMEA)
- Cyber partner violence – 3 items from Cyber Dating Abuse Questionnaire
- Demographic variables age and sex – single items

Both victimization and perpetration were measured for each form of IPV

- IPV items were answered on a 5-point frequency scale ranging from ‘never’ to ‘very often’



Results - Prevalence

1) Prevalence of pornography consumption

	Total sample (n = 1144)	Men (n = 557)	Women (n = 587)
(Almost) never	78.6%	61.6%	94.7%
Monthly	11.1%	18.7%	3.9%
Weekly	9.0%	17.4%	1.0%
Daily	1.3%	2.3%	0.3%

→ Significant differences between men and women: men watched more pornography than women



Results - Prevalence

2) Prevalence of intimate partner violence

		Total sample (<i>n</i> = 1144)	Men (<i>n</i> = 557)	Women (<i>n</i> = 587)	Men vs Women
Physical IPV	<i>Victimization</i>	4.5%	5.2%	3.9%	-
	<i>Perpetration</i>	4.0%	4.3%	3.7%	-
Sexual IPV	<i>Victimization</i>	9.3%	7.4%	11.1%	-
	<i>Perpetration</i>	7.0%	11.7%	2.6%	<i>Men > Women</i>
Psychological IPV	<i>Victimization</i>	60.1%	68.4%	52.3%	<i>Men > Women</i>
	<i>Perpetration</i>	51.7%	48.3%	54.9%	<i>Women > Men</i>
Cyber IPV	<i>Victimization</i>	45.5%	52.1%	39.4%	<i>Men > Women</i>
	<i>Perpetration</i>	41.7%	39.5%	43.8%	<i>Women > Men</i>



Results

3) ANOVAs & ANCOVAs (control variables = sex and age)

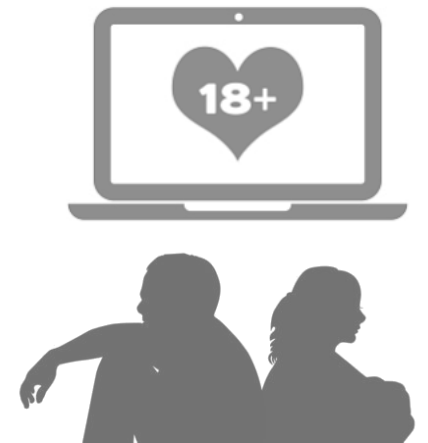
Intimate Partner Violence		ANOVA Pornography as predictor	ANCOVA Sex and age as control
Cyber partner violence			
	<i>Victimization</i>	Significant	No longer significant
	<i>Perpetration</i>	Not significant	Not significant
Psychological partner violence			
	<i>Victimization</i>	Significant	No longer significant
	<i>Perpetration</i>	Not significant	Not significant
Sexual partner violence			
	<i>Victimization</i>	Not significant	Not significant
	<i>Perpetration</i>	Significant	Still significant
Physical partner violence			
	<i>Victimization</i>	Not significant	Not significant
	<i>Perpetration</i>	Significant	Still significant



Discussion

- 1) Findings suggest a relationship between pornography consumption and intimate partner violence **exists**, particularly for **physical** forms of partner violence
- 2) Influential role of **sex** and **age**: relationship between pornography consumption and IPV depends on individual characteristics.

This aligns with the general idea that media effects are not based on simple, linear relationships but rather depend on many different individual and situational characteristics



Study limitations

1) Correlational, not causal!

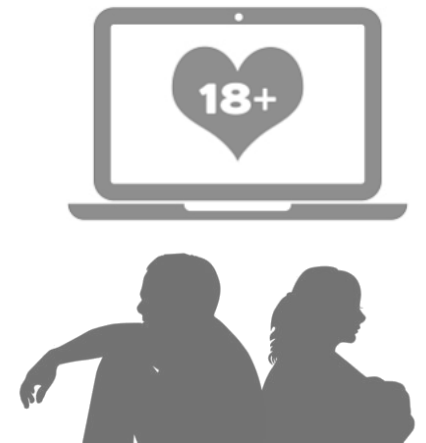
Perhaps IPV experiences predict pornography consumption

2) Measurement of pornography consumption is limited

No information about the content (violent? non-violent?), context (alone? together with partner?) and motivations behind pornography consumption

3) Non-dyadic design

No insight into partner's experiences and perceptions and into the complex dynamics that exist in any relationship



Final remarks

Please note:

We do not wish to spread a message stating that watching pornography is a bad thing.

→ Very **beneficial** for many people/in many relationships



Final remarks

More research is needed to further explore under **which circumstances**, for **whom**, and **why** a relationship between pornography consumption and intimate partner violence victimization and perpetration experiences exists.



Questions or comments?

You can also **email** me at
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